



HIGHLIGHTS

Historical commitment to protection

Paraguay is a State Party to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol since 1970.

Protection and prevention of Statelessness

Paraguay acceded to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless People in 2014, and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness in 2012.

The UNHCR Regional Office for Southern Latin America based in Buenos Aires covers and financially manages operations in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay.

Context information

- The domestic legal framework dealing with refugees is set out in the 2002 Refugee Law N° 1938 “*Ley General sobre Refugiados*”, which enshrines high standards of protection, including the regional extended refugee definition in line with the 1984 Cartagena Declaration.
- Paraguay is working for the adoption of a new migration law which is expected to include protection safeguards for Persons of Concern to UNHCR.
- Paraguay actively contributes to the consolidation of the Southern Cone as a “regional protection space”, through the adoption of the Brazil Declaration, the implementation of its Plan of Action (BPA), and the consolidation of the MERCOSUR National Refugee Commissions’ Forum.
- Paraguay grants nationality on the basis of the *ius solis* criteria which benefits also children of refugees and asylum seekers born in the country.
- Refugees and asylum seekers enjoy access to public education, health services and have the right to work.



Refugee Urban Location

Map Sources: UNCS, UNHCR
The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Printing date: 27 Sep 2016

Population of concern 223

Refugees	181
Asylum Seekers (pending decisions)	42

Source: UNHCR Mid-year Statistical Report, June 2016

Funding Regional Office for Southern Latin America USD 4.8 million



WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- UNHCR works in close coordination with Government counterparts, namely with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Interior, the National Refugee Commission (CONARE), as well as with other UN agencies to provide protection and seek durable solutions for refugees. UNHCR is a member of CONARE, with no voting rights.
- CIPAE (Comité de Iglesias para Ayudas de Emergencia) is UNHCR's implementing partner executing operational projects aimed at providing counselling, basic humanitarian assistance and support to facilitate self-reliance and sustainable livelihoods to refugees and asylum seekers. CIPAE is also member of the CONARE, representing civil society with no voting rights.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Protection & Durable Solutions

- Provide technical support and advice to national authorities involved in the adoption of migration legislation and in the implementation of fair and efficient refugee status determination (RSD) procedures. Capacity building activities are implemented to strengthen the National Refugee Commission, and its technical secretariat in order to ensure due process in admission, registration, eligibility interviews, RSD assessments and right to appeal.
- Support the Government in the institutional strengthening of the national asylum system, in particular of the CONARE's Secretariat through the implementation of a joint work plan adopted under the Brazil Plan of Action. CONARE, its technical secretariat and the refugee status determination procedure are fully funded by the Government.
- Promote and support, through the involvement of Governmental authorities, international organizations and civil society actors, a border protection network in the sensitive area between Paraguay and Brazil, addressing the challenges of persons in need of protection in a mixed migration context.
- Advocate for the facilitation of the naturalization procedure for refugees and provide the necessary information to ensure they are able to make an informed decision on this option.
- Promote a greater engagement of relevant Government institutions in the development of a comprehensive strategy towards the local integration of refugees.
- Provide capacity building and training activities to relevant counterparts.
- The Government is progressively assuming the leadership of local integration strategies, inter alia, through the promotion of policies and the allocation of public funding for refugees.
- Advocate for the adoption of a law for the protection of stateless people and the establishment of a stateless determination procedure in line with the pledges made by the Government of Paraguay (Brazil Plan of Action).

Humanitarian Assistance, Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- CIPAE provides humanitarian assistance to asylum seekers and refugees with specific needs. The assistance consists of financial support as well as counselling aimed at enhancing their local integration opportunities.

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